



NEWS RELEASE

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Rebates Available for Removing and Replacing Non-EPA Certified Wood Stoves

County of Marin expands existing program to offer up to \$750 cash back for San Geronimo Valley residents



Funded in part by a Grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District.

San Rafael, CA – The County of Marin and Bay Area Air Quality Management District are offering residents of the of the San Geronimo Valley (Forest Knolls, Lagunitas, San Geronimo, Woodacre) a \$750 rebate for the removal and replacement of non-certified wood burning appliances (e.g. wood stoves) with cleaner burning appliances such as United States Environmental Protection Agency certified wood stoves, pellet stoves or propane appliances. It is also possible to get a \$250 rebate for only removing a non-certified stove. The rebate program will be offered through August 1, 2013 or until funds are exhausted.

“The County and Air District are focusing on the San Geronimo Valley because of high winter time air pollution levels caused by a combination of the Valley’s topography, inversion layers and lack of natural gas service. This is an excellent opportunity for residents of the San Geronimo Valley to make an investment in their homes that will help make their community a healthier place to live”, said Supervisor Steve Kinsey.

The County is also continuing to provide the residents of unincorporated Marin County, the City of Mill Valley, Town of Fairfax, City of Larkspur, and City of San Rafael with a \$250 rebate for the proper removal of a non-certified wood stove or fireplace. An additional \$75 is available to residents who chose to install a certified wood stove, pellet stove or gas insert for a total rebate of \$325.

From November 1st through February 29th, the Air District issued 15 “Spare the Air” alerts when the air quality in the Bay Area was forecasted to reach unhealthy levels, the most in five years. During this period, the Air District received 863 complaints from Marin residents, the most from a single County in the Bay Area.

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Wood Stove Rebates

“Wood burning is the largest single source of wintertime pollution in the Bay Area,” said Jack Broadbent, executive officer of the Air District. “Switching to a cleaner burning stove can significantly reduce unhealthy air inside the home and in the San Geronimo Valley.”

Supervisor Katie Rice said, “As Marin’s representative on the Air District Board, I am pleased to see the County and Air District teaming up to help valley residents make the change to a cleaner heat source. Reducing wood smoke is good for the environment, and for the community.”

The County and Air District will be providing information on the rebate program at the **San Geronimo Health Fair (San Geronimo Valley Community Center, 6350 Sir Francis Drake Blvd., San Geronimo) on Thursday, October 4, 2012 from 11:00am to 6:30pm.** Information on proper burning techniques as well as clean burning appliance demonstrations will also be available.

For more information on the Woodstove Rebate Program eligibility requirements, vendor discounts, and low-income financing options, visit www.marinegreenbuilding.org/woodsmoke or contact Omar Peña, Planner, at 415-473-2797 or opena@marincounty.org.

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